

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:
2 a braking assembly;
3 a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly; and
4 a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said braking assembly, said braking
5 elements slidably movable from a retracted position to an extended position, wherein
6 said braking elements make braking contact with said contacting structure in said
7 extended position; and
8 a selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from contacting said contacting
9 structure.

1 2. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking elements are extended to contact said contacting structure by centrifugal force.

1 3. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 each of said braking elements have a post extending from a surface of said braking elements,
3 said post for limiting travel of said braking elements from said retracted position to said extended
4 position.

1 4. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said contacting structure is axially stationary with respect to said braking assembly.

1 5. The braking apparatus of claim 3 wherein:
2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base;
3 said selector has a rearward face, said rearward face defining a plurality of indentations;
4 said brake assembly base has a forward face, said forward face defining a plurality of radial
5 slots;
6 said rearward face of said selector mates against said forward face of said brake assembly
7 base;
8 said braking elements are slidably located within said radial slots of said brake assembly
9 base; and
10 said post of said braking elements protrude into said indentations of said forward face.

1 6. The braking apparatus of claim 5 wherein:
2 said indentations have an inner wall and an outer wall for restraining radial movement of said
3 post of said braking elements, thereby establishing a location of said retracted position and said
4 extended position of said braking elements.

1 7. The braking apparatus of claim 6 wherein:
2 said outer wall of said indentations have a small radius segment and a large radius segment.

1 8. The braking apparatus of claim 7 wherein:

2 said indentations and each post of said braking elements may be moved relative to one
3 another such that each post may be selectively exposed to said small radius segment and said large
4 radius segment for selectively restraining said braking elements.

1 9. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base; and
3 said selector is rotationally affixed to said brake assembly base.

1 10. The braking apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking assembly may be configured to selectively restrain a desired number of braking
3 elements to prevent said desired number of braking elements from contacting said contacting
4 structure.

1 11. A method for braking a reel on a fishing reel comprising the steps of:
2 setting a selector to restrict a desired number braking elements from radial movement within
3 a braking assembly;
4 spinning said braking assembly;
5 providing a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly;
6 extending a selected number of braking elements from said braking assembly with
7 centrifugal force to make braking contact with said contacting structure.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein:

2 limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements by selectively engaging a portion
3 of said braking element.

1 13. The method according to claim 11 wherein:

2 said step of limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements comprises locating a
3 brake element post within an indentation formed in said braking assembly.

1 14. The method according to claim 11 wherein:

2 said step of setting a selector moves indentations relative to posts extending from said
3 braking elements such that said posts are selectively located on a radial path that intersects one of
4 a small radius segment and a large radius segment that comprise walls of said indentations.

1 15. The method according to claim 14 wherein:

2 said step of setting a selector comprises locating said small radius segment and said large
3 radius segment by imparting relative rotational motion between said posts and said indentations for
4 selectively restraining said braking elements.

1 16. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

2 maintaining said contacting structure in an axially stationary relationship with respect to said
3 braking assembly during use.

1 17. The method according to claim 11 wherein:

- 2 said step of setting a selector comprises rotating said selector with respect to a brake
- 3 assembly base.